

FISCAL NOTE

HB 318 - SB 622

March 8, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Juvenile Court to appoint an attorney for a child that is considered delinquent or unruly and is in jeopardy of being removed from the home when such child is not represented by such child's parent, guardian, guardian ad litem, or custodian or when such child's interest conflict with his or her legal guardian.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$169,800

Assumptions:

- Currently, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has funds to pay for the appointment of attorneys in unruly cases. During FY05-06, AOC expended \$42,453 for appointed attorneys in unruly cases.
- It is estimated that there were approximately 441 claims filed for unruly cases. At this rate, a very rough estimate for the average cost per claim is \$96.27 (\$42,453 / 441 claims).
- Based on the results of a survey of Tennessee Juvenile Court Judges, AOC anticipates that the proposed legislation will increase attorney appointments in unruly cases four times that of the number currently appointed.
- Such would increase state expenditures by \$169,820 (\$96.27 per claim X 441 claims X 4).

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director